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on Epilepsy



V I shall begin my remarks upon this disease by making a humiliating acknowledgement - that is - that I cannot cure it, and of course that I cannot teach you how to cure it. &

VI In entering upon the consideration of this disease, I feel like King Richard <sup>who</sup> ~~after~~ <sup>when</sup> dismounted ~~by the~~ in battle and cried out "a horse -- a horse -- <sup>my</sup> kingdom for a horse" - In like manner <sup>gent.</sup> I feel disposed to begin my lecture upon Epilepsy by saying "a Remedy! - a remedy! - a kingdom for a remedy for it." - after all that I have collected by ~~much~~ reading - study and experience upon it I am sorry to acknowledge that I cannot cure it, & of course, that I cannot teach you how to cure it: turn over to —



## Epilepsy ∇

but improperly  
© It has been defined, a Convulsion of the  
muscles of the body, attended with sleep. It  
now & then exists without sleep, & with no, or feeble convulsions.  
It was called morbus Crinitialis

by the ancients for as the falling sickness,  
from its occasionally occurring in public  
assemblies. to p 2. (a)

Johannes Crato, an eminent physician  
in Germany, & ambassador to 3 successive  
emperors, earnestly desired to live till  
he sh<sup>d</sup> hear of a satisfactory theory of this  
disease. He died without being gratified  
in his benevolent wish, & had he lived to  
this day he would not have been happier  
in the attainment of the object of his  
wishes than when he died. I have that  
I read much upon it, & am sorry to  
say, I know but little more about



of this I have given you mortifying proofs  
in my ~~total~~ want of success in the cases for  
which I have prescribed in the P. Hospital.

It hence its paroxysms most generally occur  
in the night.

+ [Mr] Bichat has distinguished what he  
calls irrit<sup>y</sup>. - or we call - Excitab<sup>y</sup>  
from contractility - by the absence of  
tone from the nervous - muscular &  
gangliferous fibres in the former case,  
& considerable tone in the latter. Thus in  
the Typhoid fever there is great contract<sup>y</sup> as well  
as irritab<sup>y</sup> - whereas in the typhus fever there is  
irritab<sup>y</sup> with little contract<sup>y</sup>. - Now in =



it, than I did 30 <sup>2</sup> years ago. I shall only  
aim therefore to give you a detail of facts,  
or some conjectures  
relative to this deplorable disease. In  
some happy moment of mental excitement  
you may perhaps be able to combine  
these facts so as to form a rational theory,  
and deduce a successful mode of practice  
from them, for I am sure it is not <sup>as it</sup>  
cannot be in <sup>an</sup> ~~incurable~~ disease.

(A) Debility is certainly its predisposing  
cause. Perhaps it owes its peculiar  
obstinacy to this debility, <sup>being deep seated &</sup> occupying at once  
the nerves - muscles & the blood vessels, &  
imparting to each of them a morbid excitabi-  
-lity which invites to convulsive motions  
or morbid actions in each of them. This  
combination of morbid excitability in the  
nerves - muscles & blood vessels has been  
called by Dr. Fuller mobility. I shall



✓ <sup>These grades are 5 in number</sup> they differ very much in their grades. They are  
sometimes so violent according to Linnæus as to  
produce an emission of semen masculinum, and  
according to Dr Short, to produce an effusion of blood  
from the extremities of the Arteries upon the skin.  
I once knew ~~paroxysm~~ <sup>paroxysm</sup> to take place during a  
paroxysm of Epilepsy. The woman ~~and~~ did not feel the  
pains usually attendant upon Child bearing, and  
wondered when she saw her child by her side, ~~after~~ <sup>where</sup>  
it came from, ~~it~~, when her ~~fit~~ <sup>fit</sup> was over? But <sup>there</sup> are  
paroxysms that do not <sup>completely</sup> prostrate either the body  
or mind. Swedenburgh's visions, but extravagant  
visions were the operations of his mind in fits of  
Epilepsy. He had them, sitting or on his knees. His  
rational faculties ~~are~~ were only partially <sup>disordered</sup>.  
The case I formerly read to you of a man in  
Connecticut who was said to have two souls, was  
a milder grade of Epilepsy in which thought was  
nearly regular, & many actions performed in  
order, <sup>the forgotten afterwards</sup> ~~in~~ Epilepsy is so feeble as  
only to produce a suspension of Speech & walking.  
Thought goes on as usual. They go off in this  
way by turns. In others, the face, eyes are a little convulsed,  
without the least interruption of the exercise of the mind.  
~~These are~~



~~this is not the case~~ <sup>movability or excitability</sup> ~~fits of Epilepsy differ~~ ✓  
~~I say hereafter it occurs in hysteria.~~

from childhood  
It affects persons ~~under 18 years of age~~,  
60 & even 75. I now attend a Dispensary between  
to 50 years of age. The intervals between  
50 & 60 in whom it has a ~~kind of~~ <sup>remitted, palsy.</sup>  
the fits are from ~~one~~ hours to 6 months.

They occur oftener in the night, than in  
the day time. ~~As~~ I have known two

or three fits to occur & the system to be  
free from them <sup>the convulsions in after dentition & other diseases of teeth</sup> ~~in after words.~~ After  
(if they occur early) sometimes  
50 they ~~leave~~ <sup>go</sup> of entirely, or appear  
only in ~~a short faintness~~ <sup>faint fits of short duration from the</sup>  
becoming stricture.

Shorter life, but I have lately heard of  
a man who has lived to be above 80,  
who had been afflicted severely with them  
I have ~~also~~ <sup>read</sup> of a mathematician in France who attained with this  
in early or middle life. — They sometimes  
disorder the same great age.  
impair the memory, but & understanding,  
inducing complete fatuity, but they often  
continue for years without losing the



5 related in the German  
6 There is a grade of it in which the patient ~~comes~~  
~~verses~~ but it is Ephemerides in which the patient  
involuntarily revealed all that he heard, did,  
or thought the day before. 5 There is sometimes  
a perfect exercise of the reason & senses with general  
convulsions. Dr Baerhaave & Ephemerides.

✓ ~~is~~ inquiring whether Epilepsy may not  
be a deep seated, and widely diffused paroxysm  
of fever? - all its remote causes are the same  
as ~~exists~~ induce fever, - operating <sup>perhaps</sup> with more  
force, and bringing on greater debility, and  
<sup>course</sup> of ~~more~~ greater morbid commotions in the  
system. Compared with a common paroxysm  
of a fever, may it not <sup>be</sup> like a sudden hurricane  
or tornado,  
- can be compared with a steady equinoctial  
gale? If more than it is said are affected by it

I was consulted <sup>in</sup> May 1804 by a Gent<sup>l</sup>  
from Maryland who was one of 3 brothers affected  
with it, and ~~a few weeks~~ <sup>some time afterwards</sup> by a former  
from Chester County who with a sister were  
affected with it. It is thus you a ~~family~~ <sup>hereditary</sup>  
but I have not known it a hereditary disease.



4  
force or operations of any of the faculties  
this was the case with <sup>a man</sup> Casan <sup>who was certainly</sup>  
of the mind. Epilepsy is sometimes  
one of the greatest men the in point of intellect ever lived.  
succeeded, & alternated with madness.  
Two cases - in Penn. Hospital and Currier 1808.  
Furber Case. It proves fatal most

commonly when a fit does not kill,  
by ending in <sup>apoplexy - or</sup> hydrocephalus: intermus

The blood seems to be confined to the  
Arteries chiefly in persons who die of Epilepsy.  
Dr Johnson says in dissecting a boy who  
died of it, very little blood was found in <sup>his</sup> ~~its~~  
Veins. But ~~Dr Short says he once saw take~~  
notice of this fact, and of the one mentio<sup>d</sup>.  
from Dr Short. Do they not show the Arte-  
rial system to be deeply affected in this Dis-  
-ease? ~~From these facts are we not authorized~~

✓ The Remote Causes of Epilepsy are:  
1 General & 2 local. & 3 Sympathetic.  
The 1 are, great intemperance in



Drinking cold water. - As in Miss Charlotte Lusk 1809 in  
✓ <sup>hospital</sup> There are instances of its being communicated  
by sympathy, or imitation as in the school  
at Harlem, & in the Penns: hospital during  
the time of the late Dr. H. Whinnans.

109 It is has been congenial. A Mrs Knight  
in Montgomery Penn:<sup>a</sup> from seeing a person  
in fits during her pregnancy bro't forth a child  
son who she was affected with Epilepsy - he  
- came an idiot, & died at 18. A Mrs Perkins  
in the neighborhood <sup>(who was pregnant)</sup> saw his funeral & asked  
her husband whose it was: he answered "Mrs  
Knight's foolish son," and then described his  
fits by imitating his motions. His wife was  
much affected with the history & description of  
this boy. Dreamed of him all the preceding  
night, & at the end of her pregnancy bro't forth  
a girl in every respect diseased with fits &  
fate like the boy her husband described.

This girl was alive & 19 years of age on the  
16 July 1792. I received the inform<sup>n</sup> from  
Mrs. & Ferguson - a most correct & sensible  
woman. ~~11. Warras. 12. Laughing. Vanswieten.~~  
~~13. Six when painted.~~



erating - Disturbing - & venery. Onanism has  
often induced it.

2 great bodily exercise.

3 great or undue exercise of the Understanding  
active  
and passions.

4 Scissors. Out of 14 patients at one time  
in the hospital at Vienna with Epilepsy,  
6 of them, it was induced by frights, <sup>I have</sup> ship:  
twice known <sup>to</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~been~~ induced, <sup>in</sup> the sight of Genl. Ar.  
= which <sup>with</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>at night</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~induced~~ <sup>on</sup> a young man in  
= <sup>old</sup> effigy, but it <sup>is</sup> on a young man in  
this city. Topliff. <sup>the</sup> ~~aid~~ <sup>of</sup> it. It is rarely used when  
from this cause. — the excruciating

5 The retention of several of the excretions.

6 Repelled Eruptions. Gutta rosea - Darwin, & going  
of fluor albus. miss Whitaker. vol: 1. of extracts p: 58.  
in the open air, It was brot

of sleeping in the  
on by this means in Mrs Butler a student  
of medicine from <sup>20</sup> Leipzig in Germany after fatigue.  
but did bro't it on in Mrs Prince.

but will not be  
8 Impure or Azote Air. Dr Guthrie, V  
The local causes are

1. Lesions of the brain, ~~2. Pott's case~~ and



Dr. John Pingle  
mentions two cases of it induced in  
soldiers by a previous attack of an in-  
flammation of the brain.

V Dissections show nearly the same ap-  
pearances which are found after apoplexy  
with ~~some~~ exostoses of the bones of the brain,  
but ~~are~~ most of these appearances I believe  
are the effects, and not the cause of the  
disease - for if they were they ought to pro-  
duce the same disease. I believe Epilepsy, and  
palsy, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> palsy ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> phrenitis &  
mania affect ~~in~~ when they exist separately,  
different parts of the brain, ~~not~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~the~~  
Dr. Arch<sup>d</sup> Campbell in an ingenious essay  
Dissection lately published in Edin<sup>g</sup> About 1805  
says the basis of the brain is affected only in  
Epilepsy and palsy - and the whole brain in  
apoplexy. I find I said formerly placed the  
seat of madness ~~in~~ the upper or cortical  
part of the brain. The phrenitis must occupy  
the same place, being an acute form of the same  
disease. Hydroceph. internus probably affects both  
the upper & lower parts =



fractures of the Skull. D Potts case. a Case 8 years  
after a stroke on the head recorded in the Ann. Epilept.

- 2 malconformation of the brain. 3. +
- 3 sympathetic often very small
- 1 Tumors, in different parts of the body &  
2 a raised wart on the ankle. D Short. med. Esq. of Edin
- 3 ~~perhaps~~ decayed teeth. ~~5~~ <sup>4</sup> ~~teeth~~ <sup>teeth</sup> ~~from it.~~ <sup>from it.</sup>

✓ The disease <sup>or excited</sup> when once formed is easily re-  
moved by a moderate degree of any exciting  
cause, and by Association. The voice of  
a distant bell, and even of a horses feet,  
excited it in two cases mentioned by Dr  
Cullen. A soldier who had deserted, & was  
discovered while drinking a mug of beer had  
his fits removed for several weeks every  
time he attempted to drink. ~~at~~ A pregnant  
Lady who stood <sup>20</sup> ~~for~~ long under the hands  
of a mantua maker <sup>that she</sup> fell into a fit  
from weakness. Her fits were removed  
every time she saw either her gown  
or the mantua maker. Until after



✓ Savage relates the case of a woman in whom  
apoplexy produced an insurable attack of this  
disease. She was seized with it just as she was en-  
tering the door of a church. ~~She~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>her</sup> fits  
returned every time she ~~came near~~ <sup>attempted to enter</sup> it afterwards.  
- ~~She~~ <sup>she</sup> was obliged from this circumstance to receive  
the Communion outside of the church. -

a man who cured of it by a Catholic priest on  
condition of never going into a Protestant ~~part~~ <sup>church</sup> the  
end of 7 years he went, and was instantly seized with a  
fit. Mr Robinson - a med. Stud:

a Doctor who was ~~an~~ apprehended while drink-  
-ing, fell down in a fit of epilepsy, which returned for  
sometimes afterwards when he took a trip with any liquor  
to his mouth.

✓ 6 By ~~falling~~ <sup>burns</sup> from falling  
into the fire. 7 By an attack of mania. It  
returns however after thus changing into  
another disease. & Drugging. -

== of the brain. Time I hope will deter-  
-mine the truth or error of these opinions.

† It was cured by bloodletting in 2 of the  
sisters of the Gent. from Portugal who  
consulted me last year.



her delivery. <sup>VI</sup> ~~second~~ 8.  
trips occur often in the  
night than in the day time probably be-  
-cause they are <sup>often</sup> excited by an association  
of ideas in a dream.

Before we proceed to treat of  $\frac{2}{3}$  cure  
of this disease, let us inquire into the  
operations of nature in it. Has it ever  
been cured by her? - I cannot say it has -  
but time, and certain changes in the  
system <sup>and accidents</sup> have ~~now~~ removed it. It  
has been cured

1 By ~~peculiarity~~ <sup>one instance only of this occurred</sup>  
<sup>under my notice</sup> ~~pregnancy & childbearing.~~ <sup>It was in a woman.</sup>

2 By ~~postpartum~~ <sup>pregnancy & childbearing.</sup> #

3 By a change of climate & residence.

4 By <sup>the</sup> hardships of a camp life. They

cured it in Julius Caesar. also by a long  
journey - in Genl. Marshall's wife.

5 By age. It often begins or goes off at  
✓ 50, or 60.

Let us remember these  
facts. we shall presently apply them.



0  
~~V. Aresia Epileptica, or a creeping sensation etc.~~

= k

V and ~~the~~ and a sensation like starting of  
one of the eyes from its orbit, and with  
something glittering before the eyes.  
a Transuman in hospital.  
+ Emission of Semen & pain above  
the pubis. in 2000 grs; October 1811.



The Remedies for Epilepsy divide themselves into 3 heads.

1 Such as are proper in its forming State.

2 Such as are proper in the paroxysm,

3 Such as are proper in the intervals of the paroxysms.

1 In order to know when to administer the first Class of Remedies, I shall enumerate ~~state it for~~ the symptoms of an approach: 1 a bitter taste in the mouth, 2 or 3 days before a fit. 2 an enlargement of the pupile 3 Tremors & false vision. 4 a throbbing pulse. 5 a slow pulse. 6 a slow pulse. 7 pain in the right eye - with inflam<sup>n</sup> of the tunica adnata according to D<sup>r</sup> Cullen. 8 a peculiar odor in the breath. 9 Costiveness. 10 a redness in the



✓ 14 a trembling of the <sup>under</sup> ~~upper~~ lip.

15 ~~The last symptom~~ is the Aura Epileptica,  
on a creeping sensation rising from the extre-  
-mities of the lower feet & hands.

16 Singing, dancing - laughing - howling  
& running. It is said it attacks Buon-  
-part in the last way that has been  
event<sup>d</sup> - viz running. - ~~that~~

17 Prematural elevation of all the  
mental faculties. A fit of Epilepsy was  
always preceded in the late Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Wells  
of New Haven by unconscious displays  
of genius & eloquence in his prayers  
& sermons. }



face. 11 pains in the feet. 12 pimples on  
the tongue. 13<sup>th</sup> a sudden sense of horror  
such as <sup>is</sup> induced by the near approach of  
death. <sup>most of</sup> ~~all~~ these premortuary symptoms  
have ~~been~~ occurred in my patients, & recorded  
at ~~that~~ the time they were communicated  
to me. You may faithfully rely upon  
them. <sup>they did</sup> not all in any one <sup>patient</sup>, - & sometimes  
but one of them in a patient.

The Remedies in this forming state of Epi-  
-lepsy are 1. V.S. where the pulse is tense, & where  
great fulness appears in the bloodvessels of  $\frac{c}{y}$  brain.  
2 an Emetic. This is indicated when a bitter  
taste is perceived in the mouth.

3 Abstinence from Animal food, & the sparing  
Use of Veg. food.

4 ~~A dose of Opium~~ a gentle purge. It was  
Often prevented in the Lady M<sup>rs</sup> Wood in whom  
it was preceded by a peculiar odor in  $\frac{e}{y}$  breath.  
The pulse was Sulphur.  
5 A dose of Opium.



# 13 Rubbing the hand on the forehead, & throwing the head back against a wall. Ponsart. 14 Shaking the head rapidly. ~~a Frenchman. Running rapidly.~~ 14 Dashing a bucket of cold water all the head & body. — 15 Improving wakefulness for one or two nights. I shall mention its good effects hereafter in preventing fits of hysteria, which usually occur in the night. In sleep, and in bed when the body is in == (a)

✓ the rising of the Aura Epileptica to the head. Dr Whist. & Dr Loefer

by Breckman & Cullen.

10 Fear. Girl in Infir. of Edin. 11 By running, & by suddenly rising out of bed. 12 Keeping the mouth & teeth apart by a piece of wood. — #

✓ In treating of the Remedies that have been occasionally successful in <sup>the intervals of</sup> this disease, we have to lament that ~~the~~ no notice is taken of the grade of the Epilepsy in which they have been used. A medicine that will cure its milder grades, will have no ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> effect upon its worst grades. ~~than musquet balls upon the~~ ~~Rock of Gibraltar.~~ I shall first mention the Remedies proper ~~to~~ in the worst grades that have been described. They are the opposites



6 a Cup of the Juice of Rue. It was thus  
 prevented in a man <sup>in</sup> Virginia. Dr. <sup>Mr</sup> Dodding  
 a Spoonful of salt in the mouth. a Spoonful  
 7 The smell of burning Sulphur according to  
 Dr. Rushing of Wingham. a Spoonful  
 8 Decime of live spore commends to have  
 applied to the pit of the Stomach half an  
 hour before the paroxysm. This Remedy  
 prevents Intermittents used in this way.  
 9 Ligatures around the extremities to prevent  
 11 The Remedies in the pit are but few. When  
 the Convulsions are violent, & sh<sup>d</sup> be used.  
 It lessens ~~its~~ their violence, & shortens their  
 Duration. Fresh Air - a loose Collar - free  
 Movements - & an easy recumbent posture  
 are of consequence, as they prevent Death  
 in the paroxysm. —

VI 711

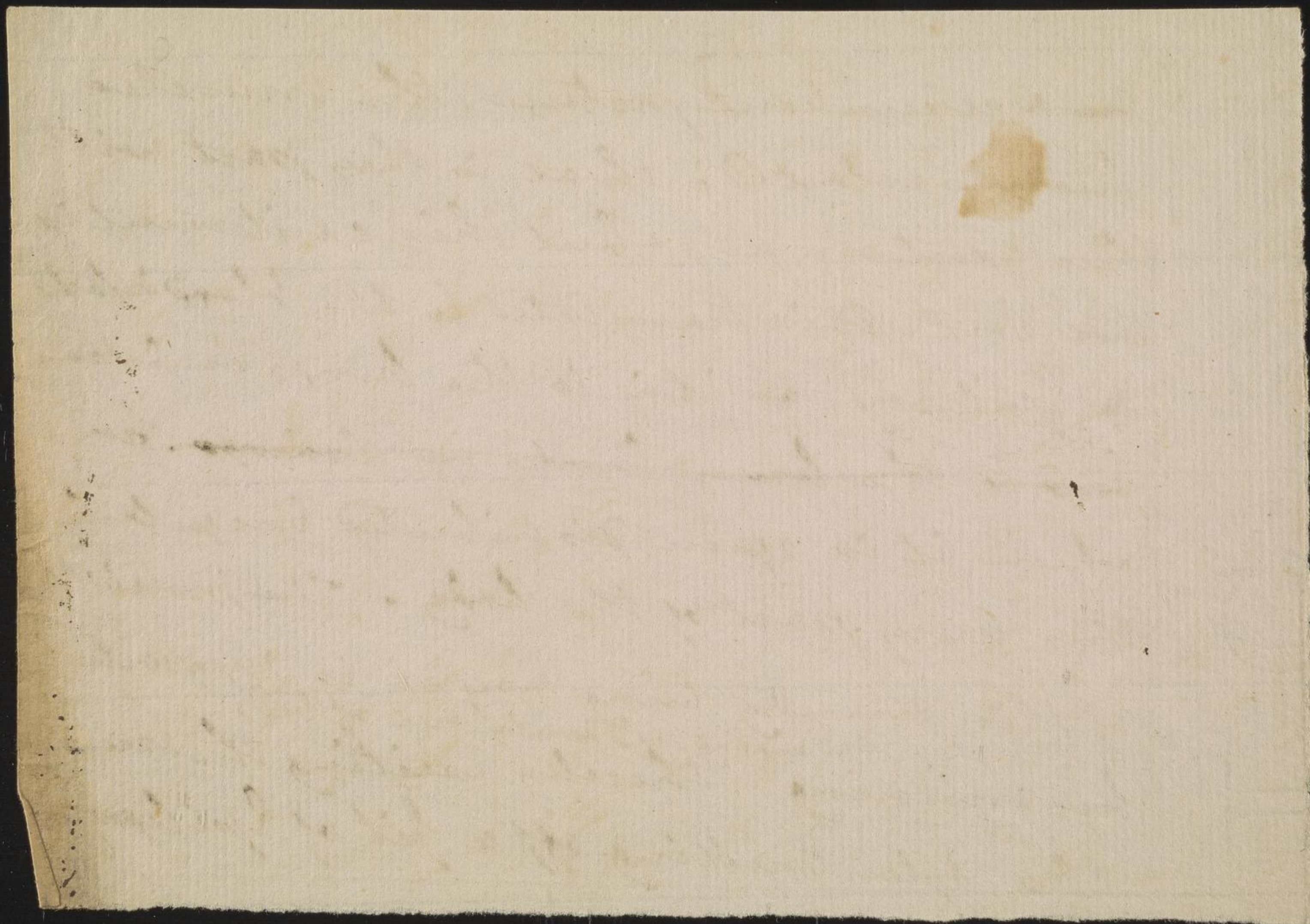
~~111 In the intervals of the fits the Remedies~~  
~~are~~ <sup>is indicated</sup> ~~by the pulse~~  
 1. V. — This is ~~indicated~~ by the pulse

& tension of the pulse, & sh<sup>d</sup> always  
 precede the use of tonics. Dr. Brown mentions  
 — one a



= 1 a) in a recumbent posture, the muscles  
 become relaxed; that is they part with  
 their excitement, - but this excitement is  
 not lost. It is translated to the blood vessels  
 in Epilepsy, as it is to the lungs in Asthma,  
~~and to the brain vessels in Cerebral~~ from  
 whence it is again distributed irregularly  
 thro every part of the body. The probability  
 of this remedy being useful is supported  
 by running - <sup>rising suddenly out of bed</sup> thereby exciting the mus-  
 -cles, often putting off a fit of Epilepsy.







of each other, and ~~the~~<sup>13</sup> yet they ultimately meet in a point, so as to produce the same effects. They are 1 such depleting remedies as reduce the system gradually below that point in which the vessels - muscles and nerves are capable of morbid action. This is done in the case of many Diseases. The French Physicians during the late war in America cured Intermitting fevers wholly by cold low Diet. No relapses ever took place when the cures were thus performed. The American Physicians saw them with surprise, but could not refute them. The same <sup>in</sup> capacity of morbid commotions have been produced in the Epilepsy by the following Remedies. It cured in infancy & childhood - Helminths

It varied in infancy & child hood - Helms this  
child Hobart - kept. Robt. measures.  
Dr Brown says a =

# The yellow fever morbid convulsions ~~are~~  
~~often~~ the yellow fever are often thus prevented, &  
of common Remittents by the *Brassia indica*.  
3 a salivation. 110



= Cure being performed by using it to such  
an excess as to bring on Dropsy. The blood  
bears all the marks of morbid action, &  
particularly a <sup>yellow</sup> appearance. <sup>It has</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>prevented</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>use</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Diets</sup> <sup>Dr</sup> <sup>Chayne</sup> <sup>mentions</sup>  
in like manner <sup>has</sup> <sup>often</sup> <sup>destroyed</sup> <sup>itself</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>spontaneous</sup> <sup>bleeding</sup>.  
2 <sup>a</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>little</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Diets</sup> <sup>Dr</sup> <sup>Chayne</sup> <sup>mentions</sup>  
the case of a Dr Taylor cured by it, & Dr  
Cullen says more <sup>have been</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>cured</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>this</sup>, than  
by any other remedy. To be effectual it should  
reduce the system to a very low degree of debility.

Dr Taylor  
He took it morning evening & it at noon.  
The cows from which this milk was taken  
fed only upon grass & hay. When ~~the~~ they  
fed upon grain this milk disagreed with  
him. Perhaps the cure here was not from  
the milk, but from the limited quantity of  
Aliment, which kept the system in a constant  
state of equilibrium, ~~without~~ and thus pre-  
vented the <sup>a predisposition</sup> ~~development~~ <sup>to an attack of the</sup> ~~disease~~ <sup>of the</sup>  
by a ~~the~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~disease~~ <sup>too much, or too little</sup>  
stimulus. An equal temperature of air, &  
equanimity of mind have had singular  
instances the same salutary effects. I have  
heard of a case in which <sup>weathered</sup> ~~common~~ <sup>Diets</sup>  
by weight and measure <sup>has</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>used</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>disease</sup>.  
Had it ~~been~~ <sup>persisted</sup> <sup>in</sup> it would probably  
cured it. —



111 15  
3 Salivation. This involuntary remedy  
was first used by Dr Hugh Smith of  
London. I learnt it from him. It depletes  
by the discharge from the mouth, & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
by the Abstinence connected with it. To be  
effective, it should be kept up for a month  
or six weeks. I have ~~made two~~ cured two  
persons by it - Stewart & Lacy of Virginia,  
I tho't I had cured three more, but they  
have relapsed. One of them is since dead in  
a fit of her disease, after being freed from it  
three or four years. It is difficult to make  
the necessary act on the salivary glands in  
this disease. U. I should always precede it.  
~~It is the best remedy for this disease in all cases.~~

4 Cold Applications to the head. Ice  
should be preferred when attainable, for this  
purpose. It should be confined by means of  
a bladder or a tin Cap.

5 Sleeping in a sitting or inclined posture  
in order to prevent an undue determination  
of blood to the brain. I have employed these  
two last remedies with great advantage  
in the case of a gentleman in Maryland.

The 2<sup>d</sup> Class of radical remedies for Epilepsy  
should be the opposites of those that have  
been mentioned. They should be tonics.  
These should be of so powerful a nature as  
to overcome the predisposing debility of the  
System. Their use is suggested by the oc-  
casional cases that have been performed by  
Austerity, pregnancy - burns - the hardships of  
a Camp life - and old age all of which impart tone  
to the System?







& what would be the effects of a high fever  
 excited by artificial means in an Epileptic  
 patient? we have seen it cure Apoplexy,  
 & palsy, & we shall soon say it assists in curing  
 madness. It is perhaps the convulsions  
<sup>ch</sup> introduce the small pox - & some other  
 forms of fever, are prevented from becoming  
 periodical & perpetual - only by the  
 Dr De la Roche says he once saw a fever just of fits 22  
 fever which follows them. In a disease  
 months. has long <sup>to be cured by fever of the small pox.</sup>  
 which, eluded experience, and reasoning,  
 the nothing should be left unattempted  
<sup>ch</sup> affords the most remote prospect of  
 success. —

‡ the form of Aura Epileptica. Perhaps this  
 is a retrograde motion of the <sup>nervous</sup> ~~electric~~ fluid, &  
 that Stimulants & drains applied to the feet  
 & legs may be the means of detaining it in its  
 proper place, or conveying it out of the system  
 when it is excessive in its quantity? I am the



49 in favor  
holidays - a strong fact of the efficacy  
of labor in curing it. It is an ex-  
cellent substitute for the hardships of a  
camp life. <sup>V I have read of a head ache occurring only on</sup>  
<sup>a Sunday in a lady, & that too from the debility induced by sus-</sup>  
<sup>-pending the usual employments of the week.</sup>  
In moderate cases of Epilepsy the

following remedies have been found useful.

- 1 Stones & Issues. They are commonly  
applied to the neck & arms. Perhaps <sup>greater</sup> advantage  
would arise from issues in the  
legs. The fits seem to ascend from the feet int
- 2 The actual Caustery applied along the sagit-  
tal & coronary Sutures. Dr Haller mentions  
3 Cures being performed by this remedy.  
or blisters all over the head.
- 4 Glysters of an infusion of Tobacco. Dr  
Haller speaks of their efficacy.
- 5 Long Journeys. 6 Change of Climate <sup>an equal one best</sup>
- 7 Change of Residence. This acts by destroying  
<sup>a rare disease, Dr Damer says, in West Indies.</sup>  
<sup>cold best - Leubner's, part 1 p. 445. Vol. 1</sup> old impressions & associations, & when a  
disposition from humors - int them out. Two cases thus  
cured.



more disposed to cherish <sup>21</sup> a faith in those appli-  
cations from having lately read an account  
of its being cured after 25 years standing, by a  
bit of the Gout in the feet. Eph: med: vol: 12. 320  
return to 2 ~~of~~  
p 19: 0

~~It is lying on a mattress on a hard bed. It is constant~~

~~stimulation~~ <sup>10</sup> The sound of large church bells  
chimed at first - cured it in France. 11 Contractions  
on the head.  
~~Dr~~ Lenzler mentions two cures being performed  
by means of the itch, the one communicated  
by design, the other acquired accidentally. Bith.  
vol. 1. p 445. 6. In addition to the pain of itching  
& the pleasure of scratching which I have supposed  
to be the Remedies in cases in which the Itch  
cures diseases, let us not forget that many  
diseases go off with an itching, & that it is <sup>always</sup>  
a favourable sign. It is a <sup>kind</sup> of disease, ~~least~~  
~~it is~~ <sup>it is</sup> ~~may a mild one, compared with the diseases~~  
<sup>cures</sup> even a yellow fever, it may cure diseases  
an hundred times more violent than itself.  
~~Dr~~ Lenzler attempted in vain to impart  
the itch by inoculation. It must be taken in  
the natural way - for it belongs exclusively to  
the skin. =



9 Uniformity of impressions from diet,  
drinks, dress, <sup>company</sup> exercise & passions of mind.

Uniformity of Diet & ingreptions from Diet &  
Drinks is best kept up by ever permitting  
the Stomach to be full nor empty, & perhaps  
by advising Diet & drinks by weight & measure.

(k) all these remedies for moderate degrees of Epilepsy should be used as auxiliaries, or as supplements to the depleting, and tonic remedies which were recommended in the worst grades of the disease. —

From a review of all the remedies for  
Epilepsy - the balance <sup>of cases is greatly in</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>a milk</sup> favor of V.S. - low  
diet, & a salivation - assisted afterwards by  
all the remedies that have been mentioned  
according to the Condition of the System

I have only to add, that in vain  
will be our efforts to cure this disease



= ~~1~~ I have said that the disease attacks chiefly  
in sleep. What would be the effect of sleeping  
the number of hours allotted to sleep? ~~and~~ or  
how to ~~do~~ <sup>or of</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>render</sup> it less profound by advising  
sleep upon a mattress, or upon blankets only,  
laid upon a floor <sup>or of sleeping in a posture nearly standing, erect,</sup> ~~to~~ thus to obviate the operation  
of ~~one~~ <sup>of</sup> its exciting causes? I mentioned  
~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~formerly~~

a fact formerly which is calculated to begot a  
ray of hope in this remedy. many of the  
militia <sup>officers</sup> ~~men~~ who ~~are~~ turned out in the  
winter of 1776 and slept on the ground, or floors  
only, during the winter, were seized with con-  
vulsions as soon as they ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> to laid down  
on feather beds After they returned to their  
families. ~~But further I shall say~~  
~~presently that of Asthma as the best of your months~~  
✓ ~~riches~~ ~~as~~ ~~even~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~lodges~~  
~~and~~ ~~massing~~ ~~as~~ ~~those~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~

<sup>good</sup>  
# Recollect the effects of wakefulness <sup>mentioned</sup> ~~in~~ ~~the~~  
by Dr Stoll in the cure of another disease of  
the brain - viz Phrenitis. I shall presently  
mention its good effects in preventing pavor  
and hereafter of cramps <sup>which occur chiefly in</sup>  
- ~~years~~ ~~of~~ ~~Asthma~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~of~~ ~~your~~ ~~months~~  
~~best~~ ~~or~~ ~~in~~ ~~bed~~.



without removing our patients out of the  
way of all its exciting causes. <sup>causes in food & strong</sup> Drink, <sup>hard</sup> and  
study & excess of <sup>as it is by reinfusion</sup> ~~venery~~ <sup>venery</sup> sh<sup>d</sup> be avoided. Re-  
-pelled eruptions sh<sup>d</sup> be restored - Obstructed  
secretions & excretions sh<sup>d</sup> be <sup>opened</sup> ~~restored~~ -  
<sup>worms</sup> ~~worms~~ sh<sup>d</sup> be expelled - tumors &  
decayed teeth (if probable causes of Epilepsy)  
sh<sup>d</sup> be <sup>removed or extracted</sup> ~~extracted~~ - and the passions sh<sup>d</sup>  
be reduced to ~~order~~ <sup>their</sup> natural &  
just order. ~~the~~

I have thus sent: laid before you  
upon the subject of a most afflictive and  
a detail of facts with a few conjectures. Let  
myself disease, & with an account of a few, solitary, and  
we request you to give them a place in  
your journals. Memorials.  
your journals. This is compared  
with mine - a new and fertile soil. Think  
man who shall of them in your  
retirement, in & on your beds. The man  
who shall discover a radical & uniform  
cure for Epilepsy will deserve more from  
humanity than the discoverer of the Georgian



= recumbent posture, the muscles <sup>become</sup> ~~are~~ relaxed, ~~and thus~~ that is they <sup>part with</sup> ~~lose~~ their ex-  
citement - but this excitement is not lost.  
It is transferred to the blood vessels & brain where  
it in Epilepsy, and to the lungs in Asthma -  
& hence perhaps the cause of paroxysms of both  
those diseases appearing in sleep or in bed, &  
hence the probability of the cure of the  
means I have suggested to prevent them.  
~~They~~ are suggested further by one of the modes  
of Obviating a fit, viz rising out of bed, and  
running. return to ~~the~~ [k] p 22

### Signs

- 1 Unfavorable before dentition in infancy.
- 2 It is ~~relieved~~ <sup>be not cured</sup> ~~if it occurs before~~ <sup>in</sup>  
~~early life, & stops by puberty, it is seldom~~  
cured by art. 3 It is most dangerous when  
attended with vertigo & head ache in its intervals.



Case of Epilepsy



The disease under which I pine away an Unfortunate life  
Oppress me since my Eighteenth year. I am now in my Twenty fifth & I seek  
Still a salutary Remedy -

The fits take me as it follows:

At a dimness of sight succeeds immediately  
the apparition of a sparkle, quite alike a watch spring in its form & Oscillations. I  
see it at the right temple, It seems to advance rapidly on me, Increasing in size &  
Surrounding itself with a kind of blaze, Which progressively assumes the Aspect of  
a large fire. This fire threatens, as it were, to consummate me, I feel its devouring  
Approach, & After having environned my person & overcome my faculties, It deprives  
Me of my Senses: Then terminate the suffering of that dreadful moment. These two years  
My fits are come more frequent; from one to four & even six fits have afflicted me in the  
Course of a month. However they are often mere alarms & four times only, in the above  
period, they left me senseless. But there is no doubt that each symptom would become  
a complet fit, If I could not succeed to stop its progress. The means that I have used  
to prevent their completion were, in the beginning, to rub my temples with the hands &  
Afterwards to fill up my mouth with salt: But a long use of these means rendered  
their effect less efficacious & at last without any effect. Next, I found out that  
Shaking my head as fast as possible, acted efficaciously: These vibrations of head are  
still the only mean I am acquainted with to prevent a complet fit; But it is not, Unfortunately,  
Infaillible; though at other times It is sufficient for me to tun as fast as possible.

The numerous remedies that I have used for nerves, made  
Nothing on me; Those that I have employed externally, as blistering plasters, procured  
Me ~~None~~ some relief. I have long thought Bleeding salutary, & on that Account  
I came to perform this Operation every two months; But I am convinced now that It  
Was baneful to me: The two last time that I Submitted to it, I was almost instantly  
Taken with fits -

Changes in the weather affect my health, & a transition from  
Heat to cold is a Subject of Harm to me - I feel often my Sight weakening, & frequently  
I feel like a cloud over one eye - If free perspiration is beneficial to me, & has even  
The effect of clearing my Sight - Exposure to cold, or to a great wind has brought  
Some fits upon me, At least, I thought this the cause of them. An obscurity of  
Sight & a certain arstiction at the right side of my face are, commonly, fatal symptoms -  
I can never blow my Nose, & Sternutatories have rather a bad effect - After the  
fits, I feel usually a heavy pain in the fore-head, & when I am so lucky as to



Stop them, a starting in the right eye, accompanied with a kind of glittering at each start,  
together with a quick palpitation of the heart, always follow - Sometimes I am afflicted  
With a hard beating in the head; palpitations of the heart; difficult breathing; Keen &  
sudden pains in the head, But the last is not common -

Many times I have experienced a kind of relief of chewing  
stimulating vegetables, as Mustard-leaves &c - When I feel my nose stuffed, that I  
can even blow it a little, I have reason to apprehend - I had been advised to wash my  
head every morning with cold water, I practised this a good while, But found out that  
it was hurtful to me - Bathing weakens me & I think it rather contrary to my health.

I have taken a good many Remedies for nerves In my  
life & the whole without any benefit. I am far from being robust & almost constantly  
I am costive - It may be well for me to observe, that an Active life suits me  
perfectly well.



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Good night to you



